



550 Squadron & RAF North Killingholme Association

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Reunion Weekend

The Ashbourne Hotel, North Killingholme

**Friday 1st July 2016
&
Saturday 2nd July 2016**

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WELCOME INFORMATION



News and Reminders...

Spitfire Flypast

The BBMF informed us in early June that the Dakota was unserviceable and would require an engine replacement. They stressed that they wished to support 550 and would provide a Spitfire flypast in place of the Dakota. They also pointed out that it means we will get to hear the sound of a Merlin engine...

This was a positive and thoughtful response by the BBMF and we thank them for their support. The flypast is at 14.15hrs on Saturday which means there is little change to our original programme. The revised schedule is shown on the back page of this pack.

Name Badges

Name badges help new members get to know us and also prevent those embarrassing moments when you know the face but can't remember the name. If you would like to wear a name badge on Saturday please use your place card from the Friday evening dinner and take a badge holder from your table.

Name badges and holders will also be available for those who have booked lunch at the Amethyst Hotel on Saturday but did not attend the Friday evening meal at the Ashbourne.

Scampton Air Show 2017

The Scampton Air Show has been announced as taking place over the weekend of 9th and 10th September 2017 although little information is available at present.

The event is potentially significant for 550 in the long term because the Lancaster is highly likely to be involved and we might stand a good chance of securing a flypast if we change the date of the Annual Reunion. However, we need to consider carefully the benefits of altering our arrangements and would like to hear members' views before making a decision.

Flypast Charges 2017

The RAF Events team has no further information about the introduction of charges for flypasts by BBMF aircraft in 2017. We will provide an update in the October newsletter.

Merchandise

Mike Leeman is making 550 merchandise available in the Village Hall on Saturday morning and probably at the back of St. Denys' Church following the service in the afternoon. Prices are shown on the next page:

Large Phantom print...£5
Small Phantom print...£2.50
Association tie...£10
Squadron badge...£5
Lancaster pin badge...£3
Pen...£1

The remaining cotton tote bags in sky blue or red, embroidered with the 550 insignia in full colour are available throughout the weekend at £11.00 from Val Kentish.

Programme Details...

Friday Evening Meal

The Friday evening meal (pre-booked with a choice of either two or three courses plus tea/coffee and mints) will be served in the Dining Room at 8.00pm. There is no dress code or seating plan but please take the place card with your name on it from the table near the entrance in order to assist staff with serving your food. The hotel has requested that we ensure tables are full wherever possible as it speeds up service. Members attending the Friday evening dinner are:

Keith Allen	Honor Redshaw
Iris Freely	Dave Robinson
Jack Harris	Kath Robinson
Michael Holmes	Susan Schmidt (Canada)
Don Kentish	Ole Seberg (Denmark)
Val Kentish	Susan Seberg (Denmark)
Lewis Mason	Angela Tompson
Chris Parker	Jane Williams
Vic Parker	Ray Williams
Katy Pritchard	

Saturday - The Amethyst, Church and Village Hall

The Association has received 33 bookings for lunch at the Amethyst and 61 for the Church and Village Hall although attendance at the latter in particular is likely to be much higher. Lunch will be served at the Amethyst from 12.00pm. Pay £9.50 per head at the hotel. We extend a warm welcome to the Reverend Paul Salmon who will be conducting our Services. Paul presided over our Remembrance Weekend activities in 2015 and this is his first Annual Reunion.

Saturday Evening Meal

The formal Reunion Dinner will be served in the Dining Room at 7.30pm. A Seating Plan will be located near the entrance which will show your table number. At each table in the Dining Room place cards with names and menu selections will indicate seating positions.

At the end of the Reunion Dinner there will be 550 photographs projected onto the wall at the end of the Dining Room and a display of items, courtesy of the Coulter family, that belonged to F/L Jim Cassidy, DFC and Bar, RAAF.

Our thanks go to Mike Leeman and George Turner for preparing the display boards and Peter Coulter for the electronic presentations. Members attending the Saturday evening Reunion Dinner are:

Keith Allen	Mike Leeman
John Arnold (Australia)	Pam Lipfriend
Gordon Bell	Lewis Mason
Phil Blackham	Margaret Noonan
Gary Brooks	Mike Noonan
Peter Coulter	Elizabeth Norton
Rachel Coulter	Phillip Norton
Sally Coulter	Chris Parker
Sally Craddock	Steve Parker
Diana Cross	Vic Parker
Mike Cross	Jamie Pickering
Christine Dunlavy	Len Pexman
Andrew Etherington	Sylvia Pexman
Sue Etherington	Katy Pritchard
Keith Fitch	Honor Redshaw
Wally Fitch	Dave Robinson
Iris Freely	Kath Robinson
Paul Freemont	Susan Schmidt (Canada)
Stan Freemont	Ole Seberg (Denmark)
Andy Gilbride	Susan Seberg (Denmark)
Sydney Gilbride	Maurice Snowball
Gary Harris (Australia)	Bill Swan (Australia)
Jack Harris	Chris Swan (Australia)
Marianne Harris (Australia)	Pat Swan (Australia)
Barbara Hercliffe	Angela Tompson
Michael Holmes	Alan Turner
Don Kentish	Beattie Turner
Val Kentish	George Turner
Margaret Leeman	Ruth Turner

Sunday – Airfield Tour

There are 10 people booked for the tour of the airfield by car that George Turner is organising. Please meet him at 11.00am outside Reception at the Ashbourne.

Sunday – Elsham Wolds Museum and Kirmington Village

There are a considerable number of interesting items on display at the Elsham Wolds Museum and there is a plan to stop-off on the way back at the RAF Memorial in Kirmington and the Marrowbone and Cleaver pub in the

village. The pub was a favourite meeting place for aircrew and has many wartime photos on the walls.

There are 14 people booked for this visit. Meet Kath and Dave Robinson at 2.30pm outside Reception at the Ashbourne.

Monday – Visit to the International Bomber Command Centre

Our tour of the International Bomber Command Centre Memorial Spire and Walls begins at 11.15am and will last approximately 1.5 hours. We cannot begin the tour until the whole group (18 people) has arrived.

The address is Canwick Hill, Lincoln, LN4 2RF. Driving up Canwick Hill look out for the Mill Lodge pub/restaurant, fork right and the entrance is almost immediately on the right. Drive through the gate, park along the side of the road near the red portacabin on the right. Our guide, Paul Robinson, will meet us, supply high visibility vests and take us on the tour of the Memorial.

There are no 'facilities' on site although we can buy refreshments and use the toilets at the Mill Lodge restaurant opposite the entrance.

As the site is still under construction please note the following:

There is no smoking on site

We must stay together as a group at all times

We are advised to wear suitable, stout, waterproof footwear as the ground is uneven in places and warm clothing (it is quite often windy at the Spire)

We plan to lay a 550 Squadron wreath and crosses will also be available.

There is the option of a light lunch at the Mill Lodge pub/restaurant after the visit. This is booked for 1.15pm. Please speak to Don or Val Kentish if you have not yet indicated your attendance as we need to inform the restaurant about the number in our party.

When Leaving - room rates

The 550 rate across all room types during our stay is:

Twin or double - £76 bed and breakfast **per room** per night

Single occupancy - £66 bed and breakfast per night.

A Date for your Diary...

Remembrance Weekend 2016

Remembrance Sunday is on 13th November 2016. There will be an informal dinner at the Ashbourne Hotel at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday 12th November and

an opportunity to visit the 550 Museum on the Sunday morning. Services will be held as usual at the 550 Memorial Stone and St. Denys' Church. A three course carvery lunch with coffee and mints will be served at the Amethyst Hotel in East Halton.

Rooms are available at the Ashbourne at the discounted "550" rate but we advise booking early as they have a function that evening.

100 Squadron, from which 550 was formed, is now a fast-fighter training unit flying Hawks. Because of the connection, last year they very kindly agreed to provide a flypast. Unfortunately it was cancelled on the day due to low cloud cover but we anticipate approaching them again this year. More details will appear in the October newsletter.

Timetable of Events - Saturday 2nd July 2016

9.30 am - 550 Squadron Museum open

11.30 am – Museum closes

11.30 a.m. - Bar opens at Amethyst Hotel, East Halton.

12.00 p.m. - Buffet lunch at Amethyst Hotel. Pay £9.50 at the hotel.

1.20 p.m. – Leave Amethyst Hotel for North Killingholme. Medals can be worn.

1.35 p.m. – Form up behind Immingham Air Training Corps Band and march to 550 Squadron Memorial Stone.

2.00 p.m. – Memorial Stone Service begins. Wreaths are laid.

2.15 p.m. – Spitfire flypast.

2.20 p.m. – Service ends. Personal tributes are laid. Photo opportunity.

2.40 p.m. – March back to Village Hall behind Air Training Corps Band.

3.15 p.m. – Service in St. Denys' Church begins.

4.15 p.m. – Service ends.

4.30 p.m. – Tea in Village Hall. 550 Squadron Museum open.

5.15p.m. – People disperse except for those staying Saturday night.

7.30 p.m. – Dinner at Ashbourne Hotel. Pay on departure if non-resident.

*****Please note that our afternoon events are scheduled around the flypast and times may change at short notice*****